Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 97-1590 July 25, 1997

McLeodUSA Incorporated and Consolidated Communications, Inc. Seek FCC Consent For Proposed Transfer of Control and Assignment of Licenses

IB Docket No. 97-167

McLeodUSA Incorporated ("McLeod") and Consolidated Communications Inc. ("Consolidated") have filed applications under Sections 214(a) and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requesting Commission approval of the transfer of control and assignment to McLeod of licenses and authorizations held by Consolidated and its subsidiaries. This transfer of control and assignment would take place as a result of the merger of McLeod and Consolidated. Under the terms of the proposed merger, Consolidated will merge with and into a wholly-owned subsidiary of McLeod (Eastside Acquisition Co. or "Eastside") with Eastside surviving and being renamed Consolidated Communications Inc. ("New Consolidated"). After the merger, New Consolidated and its subsidiaries would continue to operate as wholly-owned subsidiaries of McLeod. The Applicants seek Commission consent for the transfer of control of licenses held by Consolidated's subsidiaries and seek consent for the assignment of licenses held by Consolidated directly.

Interested parties may file comments or petitions to deny regarding these applications no later than **August 25**, **1997**. For administrative convenience, the various applications listed below have been consolidated into one general docket. Accordingly, new file numbers will not be assigned to the individual applications for transfer of control. All filings regarding any aspect of the proposed merger should reference the docket number assigned to this proceeding, IB Docket No. 97-167.

TRANSFER OF CONTROL APPLICATIONS

The applications for transfer of control are listed below. They are separated by type of authorization or license and, within that category, by the Consolidated subsidiary that holds the authorization or license. Each Consolidated subsidiary may hold multiple authorizations or licenses of a particular type.

Section 214 Authorization to Resell International Switched Services

Consolidated Communications Telecom Services Inc. (ITC-92-235)

Paging and Radiotelephone Services

- Consolidated Communications Telecom Services Inc. (File No. 23701-CD-TC-97) (KNKC246, et al.) (multiple licenses)
- Consolidated Communications Telecom Services Inc. (File No. 23704-CD-TC-97) (KWH311)

Rural Radiotelephone Services

- Consolidated Communications Telecom Services Inc. (File No. 23705-CR-TC-97) (KSC369)
- Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company (File No. 23707-CR-TC-97) (KSJ763, et al.) (multiple licenses)

Point-to-Point Microwave

• Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company (KTF59, et al.) (multiple licenses)

Private Telephone Maintenance Radio Services

• Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company (WNQW314)

ASSIGNMENT APPLICATIONS

Personal Communications Services

• Consolidated Communications Inc. (File No. 50330-CW-AL-97) (KNLF906)

Rural Radiotelephone Service

• Consolidated Communications Inc. (File No. 23706-CR-AL-97) (KNLN936, et al.) (multiple licenses)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The transfer of control and assignment requests listed here have been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing. The Commission reserves the right to return any application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules or policies.

An original and four copies of all pleadings must be filed in accordance with Section 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51(c). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with (1) International Transcription Services, Inc. ("ITS"), the Commission's duplicating contractor, at its office at 1231 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; (2) the International Reference Room, International Bureau, Room 102, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554; and (3) the Wireless Reference Room, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Room 5608, 2025 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties are also encouraged to file a copy of all pleadings on a 3.5 inch diskette in an IBM-compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows software in a "read only" mode. Diskette submissions would be in addition to, and not a substitute for, the hard copy filing requirements reviewed above. All diskettes should be clearly labeled with (1) the party's name; (2) the name of the proceeding and docket number; (3) the type of filing submitted (e.g., comments or reply comments); and (4) the date of submission. The diskettes should be accompanied by a cover letter and filed with: William F. Caton, Acting Secretary, FCC, Room 222, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Copies of the applications and any subsequently filed documents in this matter may be obtained from International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 857-3800. Any pleadings received by the Commission on a 3.5 inch diskette in WordPerfect 5.1 format can be found on the FCC's World Wide Web Site at http://www.fcc.gov. The applications and any subsequently filed documents are also available for public inspection and copying during normal reference hours at the Commission's Reference Center, 1919 M Street, Room 239, Washington, DC 20554.

For further information, contact John Giusti, Telecommunications Division, International Bureau, (202) 418-1470.